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# Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 13 | Humidity 44% Generally cloudy sky Sensex 60,655 | Nifty 18,053 | Gold 56,437 | Silver 69,544 | Dollar 81.66 | Euro 88.54 | GBP 100.06

## Despite alternative arrangements made back in 2014, street vendors continue to encroach footpaths along Jogupalya Main Road

# FOOT-PATHOS

### Building meant for vegetable market converted to yoga centre

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Footpaths are meant for pedestrians; certainly not for encroachment. The Karnataka High Court has made it clear many a time that the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has to clear all types of encroachments from footpaths. The High Court also took an exception to the BBMP authorities' failure to implement the court order on clearing encroachments from footpaths.

BBMP chief commissioner Tushar Giri Nath instructed BBMP engineers to remove encroachments from footpaths on Magadi Road during a visit to that area on Friday. The chief commissioner told media that he has also directed the BBMP engineers to seize the construction material dumped on the footpaths as it would cause a lot of inconvenience to pedestrians. He wanted the building owners to store the construction material inside the building under construction and not dump it on footpaths.

Social activists and residents, especially pedestrians, welcomed the chief commissioner's directive. However, they want the chief commissioner

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

> "...neither BBMP nor traffic police could convince vegetable vendors to vacate footpaths for the benefit of pedestrians
>
> — Shankar N, resident, Jogupalya

# Out of Step in B'luru

### Pilot study of multiple localities puts walkability index of Bengaluru at 16.5 out of 30

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The walkability infrastructure of Bengaluru falls under the 'average' category, according to a study conducted by researchers from St John's National Academy of Health Sciences.

As per the pilot study done in multiple localities across the city, the walkability index of Bengaluru is 16.5 out of 30.

The researchers calculated the index by using standard variables on walking infrastructure in around 12 localities in central and west Bengaluru and found a score of 16.5, which was midway, suggesting that it can be improved.

"The walkability index is a measure of how the built environment (buildings, streets, sidewalks) is friendly to walking. The walkability index of the city can certainly be improved. Lack of sidewalks, traffic snarls, faded zebra crossings, perennial construction and repair work are some factors that may pose difficulties to pedestrians in the city," said Dr Rebecca Kuriyan, professor and head, division of nutrition, St John's Research Institute, St John's National Academy of Health Sciences.

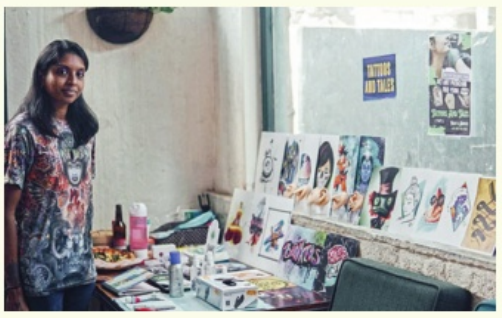
The study found that the cases of obesity and overweight among school-going children in Bengaluru are going up due to the city's walkability problems after examining

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

## 3 THINGS TO DO

### 01 Space X time

Catch an innovative one-day to three-day intensive workshop that provides an approach beyond the traditional divisions into media (movement, architecture, music, video, installation and new media), themes (paradigm shift, spaces, temporalities, performative and non- performative forms) or methods (Jacques Lecoq, Pauline Oliveros, deep listening techniques, outdoors experiments, collective or individual initiatives). The module is run by Julie Beauvais, artist and director currently based in Switzerland.
**Where: Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan, Indiranagar; When: February 2 – 3, 2-6 PM**
**Register: collective.sandbox@gmail.com**
**Info: 9986243500**



### 02 A fresh cut!

SOCIAL presents 'Fresh Cut', an all-day-art-fête, featuring contemporary visual artists. Gear up for the very 1st edition in Bangalore this Sunday! The scope of its operations is over a long-term timeline, evolving the scale of its activities while forming an identity synonymous with that of showcasing exceptional content generated by phenomenal, homegrown artists.
**Where: Church Street SOCIAL**
**When: Jan 22, 2pm onwards; Register: insider.in**

### 03 Colours, au naturale

ColorAshram in collaboration with Bangalore Creative Circus presents the first ever of its kind and scale in the country, a Natural Colour Festival! The synthetic colours that are used at enormous scales across various industrial processes are the second biggest polluters of water bodies world over. There is a wakeup call from multiple quarters across the globe to switch to a safe, environment-friendly, and sustainable alternative.
**Where: Bangalore Creative Circus, Yeswanthpur Industrial Suburb; When: multiple slots**
**Info: 9611854141, www.colorashram.com/naturalcolorfestival**

# Kids, watch out! This lime's injurious to eyes

## Ophthalmologists are reporting a rise in cases of eye injuries in children caused by slaked lime or chuna; they say more awareness has to be spread

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The two kids who suffered injuries in their eyes due to slaked lime have undergone multiple surgeries

**The chemicals in slaked lime can cause severe damage to the cornea and ocular surface, say medical experts**

Recently, seven-year-old Keerthi (name changed) was at home when she picked up a packet and started playing with it. The packet contained chuna or slaked lime, a substance commonly used in betel leaves or paan.

While playing, some of the powder accidentally went inside Keerthi's right eye and she immediately started to have severe burning, pain and redness in her right eye.

Keerthi's mother washed her eyes immediately and she was rushed to Sankara Eye Hospital and given immediate first aid in the form of copious eye washes and was examined under general anaesthesia during which, chuna was found embedded deep under the upper lid with severe damage to the eye. She needed multiple ocular reconstruction surgeries in left eye under general anaesthesia and still has permanent scarring in her left cornea which is compromising her vision.

This is not the first time a child has suffered physical damage from chuna. The chemical in chuna paste causes severe damage to the cornea and ocular surface which may require multiple surgeries.

Due to the incident, Keerthi has missed schooling for a year and is still studying in first standard of an anganwadi. Her mother, a single parent, has incurred huge debts for multiple surgical procedures and is suffering from deep mental stress.

Dr Pallavi Joshi, Consultant-Cornea, Ocular Surface and Refractive Surgery, Sankara Eye Hospital, said, "Children are the major victims of ocular chemical injuries resulting from chuna packets bursting. On an average, we see around 8-10 such severe cases every year out of which, 80 per cent victims are young children aged between 2-9 years. The remaining 20 per cent of them are industry workers injured while at work."

In another case, two-year-old Aadarsh (name changed) was playing in the kitchen while his mom was busy cooking. Inquisitive like any other kid, this little boy opened the fridge to see what is inside. To his surprise he found a packet of white paste that his grandfather uses on the betel leaves. He started playing with it; suddenly the packet splashed and the paste entered his right eye.

The kid began crying and his mother saw that his eye was completely plastered with lime. She washed his eyes with water and rushed him to the hospital.

Aadarsh was given emergency care and had to undergo a series of surgical procedures all under general anaesthesia. He has undergone four surgical procedures for ocular surface reconstruction over a span of six months.

"This two-year-old child had mental trauma, phobia and panic episodes in fear of hospital visits and surgical procedures and family too was drained emotionally and financially owing to this accidental trauma," said Dr Joshi.

While Keerthi has recovered 40 per cent of her vision, Adarsh has regained only 10 per cent of his vision, which in both cases is not enough.

Dr Joshi said, "The need of the hour is to create awareness on the hazardous effects of chuna on the eye. People should understand the need to be careful about not leaving chuna packets carelessly especially if you have kids at home. If an injury occurs, the importance of immediately washing eyes and seeking nearest ophthalmologist's advice should be emphasised."

# 'Can't sell condoms, contraceptives to minors'

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The Drugs Control Department of Karnataka has issued a diktat for the first time to all pharmacists banning them from selling condoms, oral contraceptives or any antidepressant to those below 18. This move was taken after an incident of condoms being found in a school bag.

During a routine school exercise by the school association, the school representatives had found tenth standard students possessing condoms, contraceptives, cigarettes and whiteners in school bags. Following this, there were many petitions for the Drug Control Department to take action.

Bhagoji T Khanapure, Drugs Controller of Karnataka said, "Technically, the government is promoting condoms to prevent sexually transmitting diseases and also for population control. However, it is not for teens or school kids. Hence, the circular strictly says that medicines should not be sold for underage teens."

While the circular has been issued, questions arise as to how this will be followed by pharmacies as despite numerous circulars, over-the-counter drugs continue to be sold. However,

officials from the Drug Control department are hopeful that the circular will be implemented.

Welcoming the move, a school principal said, "We need to curb these practices and it should start from the source. It will be impossible for schools to check students' bags every day. Firstly, there will be a lot of resistance from the students, especially those studying in higher classes. Secondly, it is next to impossible to check every bag on a routine basis as it will not only delay the entry of students but will also harm the academic environment. So, the best way is to curb the sales."

However, the pharmacists say that it is quite a tough job. "We agree that we should not sell over-the-counter drugs. However, condoms need no prescription and do not constitute as an OTC. If any student in uniform asks for it, then we don't sell it. However, students can come in a regular dress and it might not be possible for us to follow the diktat."

# Hotels, street vendors at odds

## Hawkers' association says memo has been presented to BBMP to allow street vendors to continue their business

Street food vendors say that their business has just started to pick up after covid

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After the Bruhat Bangalore Hotels' Association petitioned Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to not allow food vendors on streets, the hawkers' association has hit back stating that they will oppose any such move.

Federation of Karnataka Street Vendors Association President S Rangaswamy said that a memorandum has been presented to the BBMP Chief Commissioner and Special Commissioners to permit the street vendors to continue their business.

"We are legally bound to continue our business. Many of the street food vendors have procured license to operate and even possess a license from Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). According to the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India Act 2006, licensed street vendors cannot be removed from the streets. We can pay nominal rent if required. Even if BBMP wants to remove us from streets, then they should provide us alternative space to continue our business," said Rangaswamy.

However, the hotel association had opposed this move. Earlier, Bruhat Bangalore Hotels' Association President PC Rao had said that street food posed a threat to hygienic food and hence, vendors should not be allowed to continue their business. Many other hoteliers added that the street food vendors were posing a threat to the hotel business.

"We are paying hefty rent to the landlords and also possess all the required licenses. We employ a number of people and our investment runs into lakhs of rupees. However, many street vendors who don't have a license or do not have to pay rent are denting our business. Most of these street vendors are operating on footpaths or on roadside which amounts to encroachment of space. So, we have requested the BBMP to act", said a hotelier.

However, the street vendors have a different view. "The street vendors were financially hit since Covid. As most of us hail from poor families, we have been struggling to manage our expenses. Neither the Centre nor the State Governments had provided us with any packages. Restrictions were further reimposed in 2021 as well. We should be permitted to operate," said Raju S, who runs a bhelpuri cart.

Meanwhile, the hotels' association has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to announce lifetime FSSAI and trade license to hotels in the coming budget. In a letter to the PM, PC

> **We're legally bound to continue our business. Many of us also have an FSSAI license**
>
> – S Rangaswamy, Federation of Karnataka Street Vendors Association

Rao said, "The hotel industry plays a major role in the development of our country. We are giving employment to a majority of unskilled people and training them for a better future. Hence, we are requesting the cooperation from the Union and State Governments under ease of doing business for the overall development of our industry. Despite permission to run hotels 24*7, the police are not providing permission in Karnataka. Hence, the State government should be apprised on permission. The Centre should provide industrial status. Currently, there is an abnormal number of licenses required for hotels and these should be simplified."

# Teenager electrocuted

A 13-year-old boy suffered 80 per cent burns after accidently touching an electric wire. The incident took place on January 16 when the boy went to the terrace to get his kite.

The victim has been identified as Abubakar, a Class 7 student and resident of RT Nagar.

On Monday afternoon, he went to the terrace to get the kite that was lying on a high-tension electric wire when he accidentally touched the wire and fell due to an electric shock.

The police said that after hearing him scream, the locals rushed to the spot and took him to Victoria Hospital for further treatment.

"The boy suffered 80 per cent burns and is undergoing further treatment. We have not charged anyone for the incident," said the RT Nagar police.

—Ahna Prakash

# Man dragged by scooter

A 71-year-old man was dragged by a scooter on Magadi Road, police said on Tuesday.

The victim is a 71-year-old man Muttappa, a native of Vijayapura district while the accused was identified by the police as Sahil (25).

According to the victim, the accused hit his car from behind with his scooter. Muttappa got out of his car to speak to him.

Later, Sahil drove for almost 1 kilometre with Muttappa being dragged along by the scooter.

"He tried to escape after hitting my car but I was holding on to his scooter. I was taken to the hospital after the locals called an ambulance," said the victim.

According to DCP West, Laxman B Nimbargi, the victim is hospitalised but out of danger.

The accused has been taken into custody by Govindaraj Nagar police.

—BMB

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# Flexing gone too far

Despite the Karnataka High Court's August 2018 order to remove banners like this, the BBMP has not been successfully doing the same

## BBMP could be in trouble for contempt of court

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Flexes and banners continue to appear at strategic locations across the city, and the culprits are from all political parties. The number of flexes may vary from one party to the other one, but when it comes to violation of the norms, parties and local leaders vie among themselves to put them up at the drop of a hat.

The Karnataka High Court banned putting them up in the city back in August 2018. The High Court, while hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) on illegal flexes and banners in the city, ordered the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to take them down. The court also asked the BBMP to implement its order to avoid facing criminal prosecution. The BBMP authorities, in a knee-jerk reaction, pulled down thousands of illegal banners and flexes in the city.

However, some people continue to violate the High Court order. Political parties and various community associations have been polluting the city by putting up all types of hoardings from congratulating a politician for being elected to a particular post to conveying birthday wishes or greeting the people of Bengaluru on the occasion of Independence Day, Republic Day, new year, or other festivals throughout the year.

"It is the responsibility of the BBMP, especially the jurisdictional revenue inspectors and assistant executive engineers, to implement the High Court order. I want the BBMP Chief Commissioner to suspend one or two revenue inspectors or assistant executive engineers to convey a message to the others. I am of the opinion that most of the revenue inspectors and assistant executive engineers are the supporters or well-wishers of politicians. We cannot expect such employees to remove flexes put up by politicians," said Sai Datta, a social activist.

Coming down heavily on the BBMP authorities for not enforcing the order, Purushotham V of Halasuru Rising said, "Neither the BBMP authorities nor the police have taken any action. It is high time to initiate contempt proceedings against the authorities concerned. I am of the opinion that the BBMP Chief Commissioner and the Police Commissioner should be punished for contempt of the High Court order," he said.

Meanwhile, Ramesh Chandra, an advocate, said that he has already filed a petition in the High Court for initiating contempt proceedings against the BBMP authorities. "People are putting up flexes, and hoardings without any fear," he said.

## How walkable is Bengaluru

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the body mass index of as many as 292 children aged six to 15 years in the city. Around 20% of the children living in localities with poor walkability index were either overweight or obese. "We wanted to understand if there is any association between the walkability index and childhood obesity such as BMI and body fat. We conducted a pilot study to ascertain this and found that the walkability index is negatively associated with BMI and the percentage of body fat in younger children. In the study population of children, 15% were overweight, while 5% were obese," added Dr Kuriyan.

The researchers further added that since there seems to be an uptick in childhood obesity over the last few years, the need of the hour is optimal urban planning and transport policies to create and preserve built environments, with supportive infrastructure for active commuting such as walking and cycling. Healthcare experts agreed. According to Dr Namratha Upadhya, pediatrician, Aster RV Hospital, the major factors contributing to the rise in childhood obesity are increased consumption of energy-dense foods loaded with fats and sugar coupled with a sedentary lifestyle.

"The most common cause of obesity seen in children is exogenous or related to their food habits and sedentary lifestyle. Obesity can lead to serious consequences such as high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, sleep problems, and musculoskeletal & behaviour changes. Simple day-to-day changes like walking up to a grocery store, a few blocks to board a bus or train, or taking stairs for short flights can help children lower their body fat," said Dr Upadhya.

## Motorists feel unsafe on city roads

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Just a few days after a sinkhole-related accident in Brigade Road, another sinkhole appeared in Mahalakshmi Layout, causing a garbage truck to get stuck. The road was asphalted just two days before the sinkhole surfaced. Road issues are increasing in the city. While there are already never-ending pothole problems, motorists also have to worry about sinkholes now.

A portion of the road that caved in Mahalakshmi Layout, adjacent to Saptagiri Kalyana Mandapam; a garbage truck got stuck here

The road had caved in due to a Cauvery pipeline leakage on Mahalakshmi Layout main road, adjacent to Saptagiri Kalyana Mandapam. A garbage truck going over the stretch got caught in the sinkhole.

"It was a newly laid out and asphalted road. A complete makeover of the road was done, but a big crater formed suddenly. The two-wheeler behind the garbage truck could have had a fatal accident. There was a child in the pillion seat. If the two-wheeler would have gone over it, it would have fallen into the sinkhole," said a resident of the area.

A Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) official said that the road caved in due to the pipeline getting cut. "Due to water leakage from the (4-inch diameter) pipe, a portion of the road above collapsed. It was an old pipe and there is continuous vehicle pressure on the pipeline. We have addressed the issue and the pipeline has been replaced. " No commuters were reported to be injured in the incident. After a spate of accidents in 2023, motorists have been left shaken by the lack of safety on roads. They say they need assurance that they will be safe while riding their two-wheelers.

"While people are only familiar with three recent accidents, just fifteen days ago, a guy came under the wheels of a tractor due to craters on the road. We have lost our sense of safety on roads. Due to the 40 per cent commission, the quality of roads is going down. Even with complaints to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), no action is taken. Today, even if a person skips a traffic signal accidentally, hefty traffic fines are levied, but there is no accountability for road quality or road safety for motorists," said Sudheendra MG, General Secretary of Karnataka State Motorist's Association.

Bangalore Mirror
Lost faith in BMRCL?
Sinkhole-related accident in Brigade Road adds to incidents that are making public question metro work

BM's report on Jan 13 spoke about increasing road accidents and the possibility of citizens losing faith in civic bodies

## Curious case of leaning light pole

Nearly seven months after a street light pole on the median of Hennur-Kothanur road started leaning, BESCOM has finally rectified it. There was an imminent risk of the pole falling onto vehicles passing by.

According to BESCOM officials, the pole started leaning after a road accident in the area. "We have already removed the pole. On Monday night, we came to know about the pole, and on Tuesday morning, it was removed. The pole started leaning after an accident in the area," said a BESCOM official. "Around six months back, a car hit this streetlight pole and there has been no action. Even with a little bit of rain, it's likely to fall on vehicles and cause accidents," a resident said.

Some netizens called it the 'leaning light of North Bengaluru'. Another netizen commented on how the world-famous attraction Leaning Tower of Pisa faced stiff competition from the Namma Bengaluru attraction. — Melvin Mathew

# Active covid cases below 100-mark

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For the first time in months, the number of active covid cases in Bengaluru fell below the 100-mark on January 16. The city reported 22 new cases of coronavirus on Monday, taking the total tally of active cases to 86.

Active cases in the city have seen a speedy decline over the last few days. While the total number of active cases reported a month ago was 1,252, the numbers dropped to 165 a week ago.

A considerable dip in the number of people going for covid testing due to milder symptoms caused by the virus is likely to be one of the reasons behind this drop, healthcare experts in the city said.

"The number of people going for testing has gone down considerably. The virus has become like any other flu virus and people have gotten accustomed to it. Additionally, most symptoms are mild as the majority of the population is vaccinated. Hence, there are no major complications. At this point, we can say that people can carry on with their day-to-day activities while following covid precautions like sanitising their hands, wearing a face mask in crowded places, and getting vaccinated," said Dr Rajendra Kumar KP, Aster RV Hospital.

As covid infections registered a spike across the globe last month, creating a scare of yet another pandemic wave, Bengaluru recorded a surge in the number of booster doses administered. While the total number of the eligible population that was administered the third dose was 13.31 lakh a month ago, the tally went up to around 13.8 lakh in a short span of time. This indicated that over 50,000 individuals went to get their jab within a month's time.

**A considerable dip in the number of people going for covid testing is likely to be one of the reasons behind the drop, experts said**

However, along with the drop in the number of active cases, the pace of booster doses going into the arms has also been low after a sudden spurt a few days ago.

According to city hospitals, the number has gone down as people have become complacent.

"People are not thinking about covid, and hence, vaccination numbers have reduced. However, in our ICU, we are still testing for covid in patients with respiratory signs and symptoms, and the tests are very occasionally positive. We expect the trend to be on the lower side. Although the number of active cases is on the decline, those who are eligible and have not taken the booster dose must take it," said a representative of a private hospital in the city.

After the recent drop in the demand for precautionary doses, hospitals added that not all institutions are procuring all the brands, which is why Covishield doses are the ones mostly available.

# Grab your lab coats, it is time to get practical

## Schools try to ease students into practical learning after pandemic-gap

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For most students who will be sitting for board examinations this year, there has been a loss of practical learning due to the past couple of years amid covid and online classes.

In most schools around the city, practical examinations are currently going on. Schools are focusing on remedial classes for the students with a special focus on practical learning in order to help out the students.

"After the pandemic, this is the first time that they are appearing for practical classes. We want them to overcome their anxieties. We have to try and teach them to just focus on concept-based learning. We are providing study material and asking the students to limit distractions as much as possible. We have conducted remedial classes for them as well," said Jasmine KJ, Principal, Orchids International School, BTM Layout, Bangalore.

Schools said that students have been performing well in the practical examinations so far despite stress and anxiety. Many schools have conducted mock practical examinations too, especially for subjects like physics, chemistry, and biology.

"Most CBSE schools conduct mock practical examinations these days. Before we go to actual practical examinations, we conduct mock and model practicals and vivas for the students internally. They have some practice for it now as a result," she added.

Schools also said that they are trying to keep the difficulty level of the practical examinations comparatively easier this year for the students.

External examiners come from different schools to conduct the viva and practical examinations

"During the pandemic, most of the schools had lost touch with observational and practical skills. That is the reason we had held practical classes for this batch in November and December. Students in class 12 have to do the practicals on their own now, so we want them to be in touch with practical learning as well. However, we have made sure that the difficulty level of these practical tasks is basic and not very hard on the students. This will help them build confidence," said Father Sunil Fernandes, principal, St Joseph Boys High School.

For the practical examinations, there are external examiners who come from different schools to conduct viva and practical examinations. "If you ask me, most examiners are understanding this year and they can grasp the situation of the students sitting for board examinations.

In this context, even these people have been very cooperative. If the students are scoring well in practical examinations, it will make up for their overall score in board examinations," he told Bangalore Mirror.

> **Students in class 12 have to do the practicals on their own now, so we want them to be in touch with it**
> – Principal, St Joseph Boys High School

Schools have also advised the parents to cooperate with the students' anxiety and stress issues regarding the board examinations that are less than a month away.

IN BRIEF

## RTI activist murder: Family blames cops

The family of late RTI activist Murthy R, who was hacked to death recently in Bengaluru, has held the Karnataka police department responsible for his murder.

Meanwhile, the RTI Activists' Forum has warned that they would stage a protest condemning attacks on RTI activists in the state.

Murthy, a resident of Kurubalidoddi village near Kanakapura town, located close to Bengaluru, was found bludgeoned to death in the last week of December. Murthy had collected details of the civil work carried out under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in the village and filed a complaint with authorities. The authorities have visited the village to probe his allegations.

The police had arrested three persons in connection with the murder of Murthy. Shantamma, Murthy's mother, said that even as the police were informed about her son being threatened for exposing corruption at panchayat level, no action was taken.

She maintained that her son was given death threats and police failure to provide security for him resulted in his murder. **IANS**

## New walkway to ITPL

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on Tuesday between Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) and the Information Technology Park Limited (ITPL) to provide direct access from the concourse level of the Pattandur Agrahara Metro Station to International Tech Park, Bengaluru (ITPB) through a walkway. The construction will be carried out by the ITPL according to the designs approved by BMRCL. This will help over 55 thousand employees working at ITPL campus to access their office straight from the metro station without crossing the road.This is a first-of-its-kind agreement on the Byappanahalli-Whitefield Line. **BMB**

# Footnotes from Bengaluru sidewalks

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to visit other areas in the city where footpaths are encroached with impunity.

For example, one cannot even see that footpaths do exist, forget about walking on them, in many areas of the city. For example, the entire footpath along Jogupalya Main Road is occupied by shop owners and street vendors, especially those selling vegetables. The BBMP made arrangements in 2014 to shift around 50 vegetable vendors to a newly constructed building but in vain. Now, the building, meant for the vegetable market, has been converted into a yoga centre.

"The BBMP spent a lot of money to construct a building that can

accommodate around 50 vegetable vendors. The objective was to ensure footpaths free from encroachment. Jogupalya ward was represented by Gautam Kumar who got elected as mayor of Bengaluru. However, neither the mayor nor BBMP, nor traffic police, could convince the vegetable vendors to vacate the footpaths for the benefit of pedestrians," said Shankar N, a resident of Jogupalya.

One can find major portions of the footpaths on Dharmaraja Koil Street and Jumma Masjid Road occupied by shop owners and street vendors. The entire stretch of the footpath along Lady Curzon and Bowring Hospital compound is occupied by hundreds of street vendors.

"I appeal to the BBMP chief commissioner to visit Shivajinagar and take measures to clear the encroachments from the footpaths. It is easy for him to visit other areas and give directions to the BBMP engineers to clear encroachments from the footpaths and also request shop owners and street vendors to move on; but one needs a lot of courage and will power to implement similar initiative in Shivajinagar," said Sandeep Bulgannawar, a resident of Indiranagar.

Bulgannawar said that none of the authorities, including police, have the courage to implement norms in certain areas of Shivajinagar. "I do not know what has prevented the authorities from clearing encroachments from footpaths," he said.

Social activist Sai Datta emphasised the need to clear footpaths encroachments for the benefit of pedestrians. He said street vendor mafia rules the roost in some areas in the city.

"Many footpaths and pedestrian subways are encroached by the street vendors. I want the BBMP chief commissioner to focus on clearing footpaths instead of threatening or penalising property owners for keeping construction material on the footpath because the property owner has no other place to keep the construction material. This type of orders facilitate or help the BBMP engineers to make more money," said Datta.

Will the BBMP chief commissioner visit Shivajinagar and Jogupalya to help the hapless pedestrians?

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## personal

### CHANGE OF NAME

**I,** Vishalakshi W/o M.Narayanappa Residing No.187, 3rd Cross, 1st Main, Ramakrishnanagar, 4th Block, Nandini Layout, Bangalore-560096, My name changed from Govindaiah Vishalakshi to Vishalakshi for all future purpose vide affidavit dated 17.1.2023 Sworn before Notary D.G.Shanthappa, Bengaluru

### GENERAL

**I,** Bramhananda Tara Prasad Kola S/o Arjuna Rao Kola R/o A2 701, Provident Harmony Apt Balaji Krupa Layout Thannisandra Jakkur B'luru-560064 have changed my name to Brahamananda Tara Prasad Kola for all purposes.

**I,** Prashantha R/o #203 Sai sumukha samrudhi, 1st cross, Nataraja Layout, Kothannur Dinne, 8th phase, JP nagar, Bengaluru 560078 have changed my name to Prashantha Kulal affidavit Dt.16/01/2023 notary Ganesh Gowda M.V, B'luru

**I,** Kavya, W/o Sagar Bejai Suvarna, R/o #3, Flat No.101, Nadellas Bliss, Ayyappa Layout, Varthur, Bangalore - 560087 changed my name to KAVYA BANGERA, affidavit Dt 16/01/20223 notary Ganesh Gowda M V, B'luru

**I,** Priya R/o 1-C 701, CLPD Arcadia, Gunjur Palya Road, Chikkabellandur, Near Carmelaram Church, Gunjur, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560087 have changed my name to Priya Mahla

**I** Basheer s/o Maheboob Sab R/o No 6-8-96 Thimmapurpet, Raichur-584101, Have changed my name to Basheer Maheboob Sab vide Affidavit dt: 17/01/2023, before notary B S Padmaprasad B'luru

**I,** Nethravathi B P, Aged 54 yrs W/o M Krishnachar, R/o. #481, MST Road, Tiptur, Tumkur-572201, have changed my name to B P Yashodamma for all purposes.

**I** Hameed Abdul Rawoof S/O, T M Abdul Hameed R/o No 11 2nd Floor 5th Cross Near Vrl Godown H Siddaiah Road, Bangalore 560027 have changed my name to Abdul Rawoof

**I,** Mahaboob khan S/o Shukur ulla khan R/o #42, chamundi nagar main road near shalini bar, chamundi nagar, bangalore north, Bangalore,Karnataka=560032 declare that my correct DOB is 05/05/1963 instead of 03/03/1966 .

# Wake up and smell the coffee

## Coffee production reports high growth at 3.42 lakh metric tonnes in 2021-2022 in comparison to last five years

| Iffath.Fathima
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Karnataka is the major coffee-grower of the country, with around 70% of coffee being grown here

What's brewing? Just some good news on the coffee front. According to Dr KG Jagadeesha, IAS, CEO and Secretary, Coffee Board, Government of India, coffee production is on the mend after being in the low for a few years.

In comparison to the figures of production in the last five years, the statistics by the government showcased that the year 2021-2022 saw the highest production with 3.42 lakh metric tonnes (LMT).

Karnataka is the major contributor of coffee in the country with around 70% production in comparison to other states like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.

Dr Jagadeesha said, "Coffee production has shown recovery from the previous five years' production losses affected by natural calamities and estimated at 3.42 LMT for 2021-22 crop season as the crop is projected to be good due to favourable climatic conditions."

Between the years 2017-2018, coffee production was 3.16 LMT, followed by 3.19 LMT in 2018-2019. The year 2019-2020 saw a dip with only 2.98 LMT productions and an increase was seen in 2020-2021 with 3.34 LMT. However, 2021-2022 saw the highest production at 3.42 LMT with a value of Rs 7,700 crore.

The coffee market is said to have transformed from a principally 'bulk' market to a mainstream market with quality and sustainability requirements in mainstream markets, and new variations in consumer demands.

### Better crop

The current crop season 2022-23, coffee production is estimated to reach a record high at 3.60 LMT at post monsoon stage due to favourable climatic conditions as well as market conditions, he added.

Two types of coffee are grown here: Arabica coffee (30% of total production) and the other is Robusta coffee (70% of total production). Of these, Arabica is grown the most and of high-quality.

Amongst the other states, Karnataka accounts for about 52% of the area contributing 72% of the country's production while Kerala and Tamil Nadu contribute 20% and 6%, respectively.

In the year 2021-2022, three districts in Karnataka- Chikkamagaluru, Kodagu and Hassan contributed to the highest coffee production. In Chikkamagaluru, a total of 80,150 MT of coffee production was recorded, including the Arabica and Robusta coffee. Kodagu showed a further high, with 1,23,550 MT and Hassan district at 37,950 MT.

> **"The coffee production has shown recovery from the previous five years' production losses affected by natural calamities and estimated at 3.42 LMT for 2021-22 crop season as the crop is projected to be good due to favourable climatic conditions**
>
> – Dr KG Jagadeesha, Secretary, Coffee Board

"Karnataka is the main coffee-growing state with 52% area and 73% of total annual coffee production in the country. Out of a total 4,06,691 number of coffee growers, 80,207 number of growers are from Karnataka. Coffee generates employment to 8 lakh people," he explained.

Hence, coffee is an important agricultural commodity both in social and economic terms. Bengaluru is the capital of coffee state (Karnataka) and plays a vital role in the growth of coffee industry through trade, roasting, cafe chains and subsidiary activities, he informed.

# More time to study: MBBS exam postponed

| Saumyangi Yadav
c-saumyangi.yadav
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Science (RGUHS), Bangalore has finally given in to the students' pressure and has postponed the dates for Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) examinations by 10 more days.

The student cited insufficient preparation time as one of the reasons for seeking the postponement.

The results for revaluation exams were released by the university on January 14, 2023, and the final examinations for MBBS were earlier scheduled to start from January 23, 2023, leaving a little time for the students to prepare.

"The schedule was giving only a window of one week to the students to prepare for the final examinations and revise for all the subjects. It is humanly impossible to prepare and revise all the subjects in such a short span of time," said Sanjay Raj, State Secretary and incharge of RGUHS, National Student Union of India (NSUI), Karnataka.

"This would have impacted the mental health of many students adversely and also would have affected their future," he added.

Another problem that the students highlighted with the exam schedule was that the last date for paying the examination fee was scheduled to be January 16. The students demanded that a provision be given to the students for another week to pay the examination fee without any fine being levied upon them for the same.

On Monday evening, after the students wrote a letter to the registrar demanding the postponement, the university gave in to the demands.

"We needed at least a few days to study," said a university student.

## IN BRIEF

### For those who support good movies

The 21st and 22nd Sri Raghavendra Chitravani awards are scheduled to happen on January 25 at Kannada Chalanachitra Kalavidara Sangha, Chamarajpet. January 25 marks the birth anniversary of DV Sudheendra who established Sri Raghavendra Chitravani.

"We have selected the awardees based on merit. All of them have contributed something to society by bankrolling good movies," said Sudheendra Venkatesh of Sri Raghavendra Chitravani.

Established 47 years ago, Sri Raghavendra Chitravani is the only public relations organisation to felicitate people who contribute to Kannada film industry.

"We have decided to continue late Sudheendra's practice of felicitating producers, senior journalists, artists and technicians. Initially, it began with two awards and now it has been extended to 11 awards. We could not organise the function last year due to covid pandemic," he added.

Karnataka Film Chambers of Commerce president Ba Ma Hareesh, Kannada Film Producers' Association president Umesh Banakar, actresses Ragini Dwivedi, Chandini and prominent personalities of Sandalwood are expected at the function. **–BMB**

### HC allows Constitution Club to be set up at Balabrooie

The High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday allowed the Constitution Club for legislators to be established at the Balabrooie Guest House.

The heritage building on Palace Road was proposed as the location for the club by the government which was challenged in the High Court in a public interest litigation (PIL), which alleged trees are being cut across Bengaluru city indiscriminately.

The PIL had pointed to the cutting of trees of Namma Metro (Bengaluru Metro) and the proposed Constitution Club.

A division bench of the High Court comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B Varale and Justice Ashok S Kinagri directed that the club could be established without harming the heritage building and cutting down any trees on the premises.

Government advocate Prathima Honnapura submitted to the court that no harm would be caused to the heritage building and no old trees on its premises would be cut down.

There are 159 trees in the guest house grounds and none of them would be cut, the High Court was informed by the government. **–PTI**

**Rise of Bitcoin**
Bitcoin on Tuesday rose to its highest in more than four months, extending a new year rally

BangaloreMirror | 8
Wednesday, January 18, 2023
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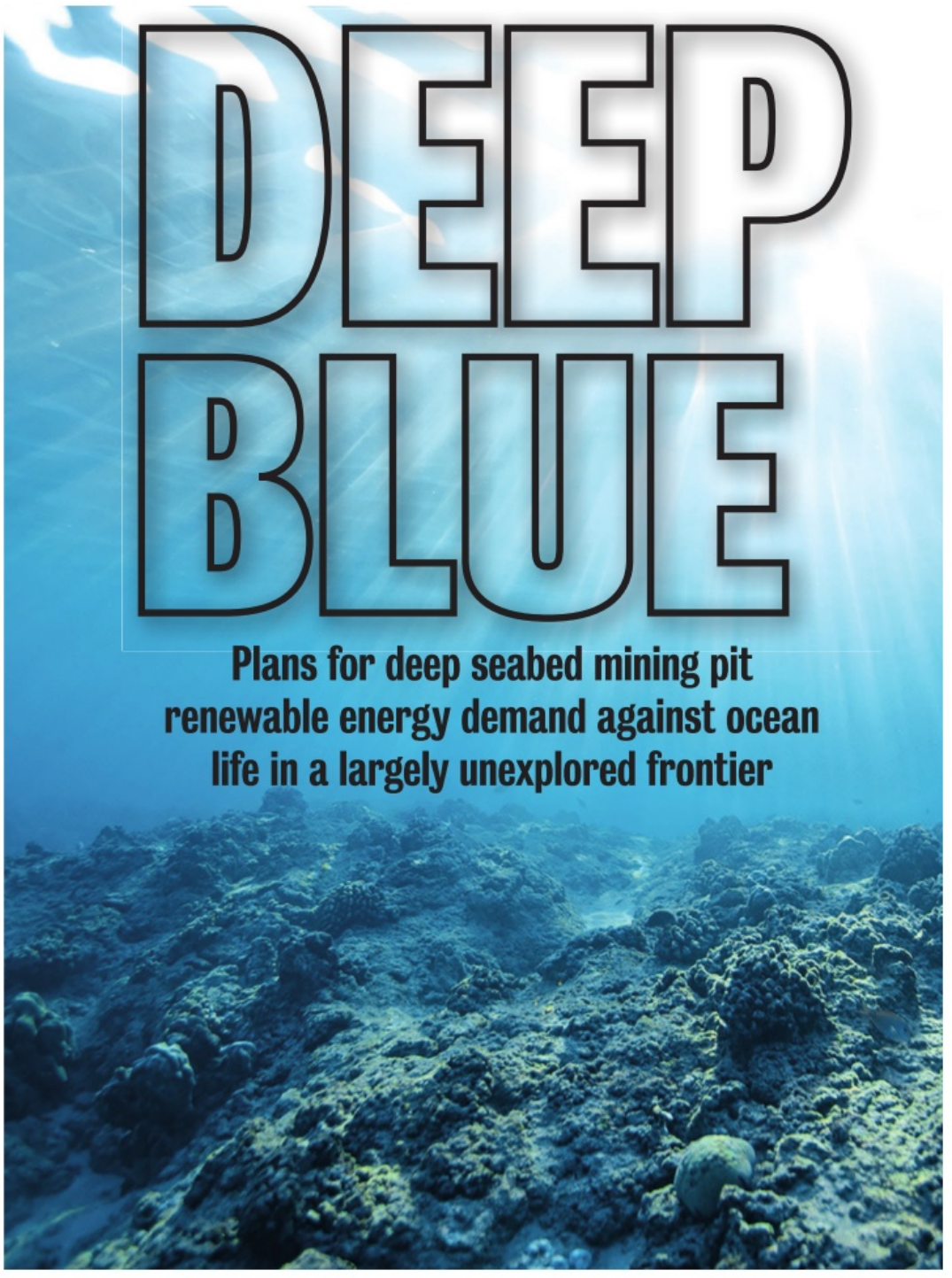
# DEEP BLUE

## Plans for deep seabed mining pit renewable energy demand against ocean life in a largely unexplored frontier



As companies race to expand renewable energy and the batteries to store it, finding sufficient amounts of rare earth metals to build the technology is no easy feat. That's leading mining companies to take a closer look at a largely unexplored frontier – the deep ocean seabed.

A wealth of these metals can be found in manganese nodules that look like cobblestones scattered across wide areas of deep ocean seabed. But the fragile ecosystems deep in the oceans are little understood, and the mining codes to sustainably mine these areas are in their infancy. A fierce debate is now playing out as a Canadian company makes plans to launch the first commercial deep sea mining operation in the Pacific Ocean.

The Metals Company completed an exploratory project in the Pacific Ocean in fall 2022. Under a treaty governing the deep sea floor, the international agency overseeing these areas could be forced to approve provisional mining there as soon as spring 2023, but several countries and companies are urging a delay until more research can be done. France and New Zealand have called for a ban on deep sea mining.

As scholars who have long focused on the challenges posed by deep seabed mining, we have studied this economic frontier with concern for the regulatory and ecological challenges it poses.

### What's down there, and should we care?

A curious journey began in the summer of 1974. Sailing from Long Beach, California, a ship funded by eccentric billionaire Howard Hughes set course for the Pacific to open a new frontier — deep seabed mining. Widespread media coverage of the expedition helped to focus the attention of businesses and policymakers on the promise of deep seabed mining, which is notable given that the expedition was actually an elaborate cover for a CIA operation.

The real target was a Soviet ballistic missile submarine that had sunk in 1968 with all hands and what was believed to be a treasure trove of Soviet state secrets.

The expedition, called Project Azorian by the CIA, recovered at least part of the submarine – and it also brought up several manganese nodules from the seafloor.

Manganese nodules are roughly the size of potatoes and can be found across vast areas of seafloor in parts of the Pacific and Indian oceans and deep abyssal plains in the Atlantic. They are valuable because they are rich in 37 metals, including nickel, cobalt and copper, which are essential for most large batteries and several renewable energy technologies.

These nodules form over millennia as metals nucleate around shells or broken nodules. The Clarion-Clipperton Zone, between Mexico and Hawaii in the Pacific Ocean, where the mining test took place, has been estimated to have over 21 billion metric tons of nodules that could provide twice as much nickel and three times more cobalt than all the reserves on land.

Mining in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone could be some 10 times richer than comparable mineral deposits on land. It could be instrumental in feeding the surging global demand for cobalt that is at the heart of lithium-ion batteries.

Yet, as scientists have noted, we still know more about the surface of the moon than what lies at the bottom of the deep seabed.

### Deep seabed ecology

Less than 10% of the deep seabed has been mapped thoroughly enough to understand even the basic features of the structure and contents of the ocean floor, let alone the life and ecosystems there.

> **"Deep sea mining could be instrumental in feeding the surging global demand for cobalt that is at the heart of lithium-ion batteries**

### Scarcity and economic case for mining

The economic case for deep seabed mining reflects both possibility and uncertainty. On the positive side, it could displace some highly destructive terrestrial mining and augment the global supply of minerals used in clean energy sources such as wind turbines, photovoltaic cells and electric vehicles.

Terrestrial mining imposes significant environmental damage and costs to human health of both the miners and the surrounding communities. Additionally, mines are sometimes located in politically unstable regions. The Democratic Republic of Congo produces 60% of the global supply of cobalt, for eg, and China owns or finances 80% of mines in that country. China also accounts for 60% of the global supply of rare earth element production and its processing. Having one nation able to exert such control over a critical resource has raised concerns.

Deep seabed mining comes with uncertainties, but, given the technology's relatively early state. First are the risks associated with commercialising a new technology. Until deep sea mining technology is demonstrated, discoveries cannot be listed as "reserves" in firms' asset valuations. Without that, it can be difficult to line up the significant financing needed to build mining infrastructure. Commodity prices are also difficult to predict. Technology innovation can reduce or even eliminate the projected demand for a mineral. New mineral deposits on land can also boost supply: Sweden announced in January 2023 that it had discovered the largest deposit of rare earth oxides in Europe.

In all, embarking on deep seabed mining involves sinking significant costs into new technology for uncertain returns, while posing risks to a natural environment that is likely to rise in value.

**(Scott Shackelford, Christiana Ochoa, David Bosco and Kerry Krutilla, Indiana University for The Conversation)**

## BITS & BYTES

### MINI SURPRISE

Apple Inc on Tuesday unveiled new MacBooks powered with the latest M2 Pro and M2 Max chips made in-house, in a surprise announcement ahead of its traditional launch event.

The Mac mini starts at $599, cheaper than the latest iPhone 14 series, and is available beginning Jan. 24. Apple did not provide pricing information for the laptops. The new MacBook Pro's performance is six-times faster than the Intel-based MacBook Pro, according to Apple. The company traditionally has four launch events in a year, with the first spring event in March, when Apple launches its iMacs and accessories. **Reuters**

### HYBRID MACHINE

General Motors Co on Tuesday revealed a new, hybrid Corvette sports car that uses an electric motor and battery to amp up acceleration and go in the snow.

The Corvette E-Ray - a play on the Stingray name used for gasoline-powered versions of the sports car - was revealed on the 70th anniversary of the debut of the original Corvette. GM executives have said previously a gasoline-electric hybrid version of the automaker's supercar was coming. The Corvette E-Ray will use a 12-volt lithium-ion battery and a 160-horsepower electric motor to drive the front wheels. **Reuters**

### DON'T COPY THAT

US firm Getty Images on Tuesday threatened to sue a tech company it accuses of illegally copying millions of photos for use in an artificial intelligence (AI) art tool.

Getty, which distributes stock images and news photos including those of AFP, accused Stability AI of profiting from its pictures and those of its partners.

Stability AI runs a tool called Stable Diffusion that allows users to generate mash-up images from a few words of text, but the firm uses material it scrapes from the web often without permission.

The question of copyright is still in dispute. **AFP**

**HEALTH TIP:** Regular exercise will help keep your joints supple and maintain flexibility

Enough exposure to the sun (Vitamin D) will help in building and improving the bones



# Coping technique

## Experts give tips on improving quality of life for those living with chronic pain and long-term illnesses

If you're one of those living with chronic pain, you'll know the frustration when turmeric and Pilates are pushed as magic cures.

The reality, as confirmed in a recent survey, is that more than half of sufferers haven't found a remedy that helped their pain in the past five years.

So instead of following fads, we spoke to experts to bring you tips that may improve your quality of life.

### THE PSYCHOLOGIST

Dr Meg Arroll, author of Tiny Traumas says: "There's no cheat sheet to cope with long-term illness, pain or disability and accepting the issues you're facing can be hard. There's no shame in wanting a quick fix, but the reality is often different.

"The medical model works brilliantly if you break a leg, which usually has a clear recovery roadmap. Chronic illness is a different kettle of fish and we're far from one-size-fits-all treatments.

"Improving a disabled or chronically ill person's quality of life means dealing with a range of physical, emotional and social factors."

### Break boom-or-bust cycles

Dr Meg says a "boom" in activity often leads to a pain flare, or "bust". While you recover, tasks pile up. When you're better, your overwhelming to-do list leads you to another bust.

The answer is finding your baseline - how daily activity looks when you're low on symptoms or symptom free - and introducing "adaptive pacing".

Categorise activities (domestic, work, social) and diarise tasks in manageable minute-by-minute chunks. For example, don't aim to fold 10 shirts, but instead aim to fold for two minutes.

Spread tasks, and cushion them with rest and recovery time.

**Reframing:** Society says if we try hard enough we'll overcome challenges, but with chronic conditions, superhero levels of healing are unrealistic.

"Harmful narratives about our ability to heal ourselves exist because there's a lucrative industry selling products to people desperate for improvement.

"Fad products, lotions and potions won't help, but breaking your boom-and-bust cycle will."

**Coping with guilt:** Feelings of guilt are linked to expectations we have of ourselves, and are almost never helpful.

"Examine where those expectations come from. If it is external, like social media, instead curate yourself a kinder, funnier, enjoyable feed.

"And, when guilt creeps in, consider if it's helping you. If not, it's a waste of valuable energy."

**Self care:** While a support network is crucial, sometimes close people hinder, not help. Establish your boundaries and learn how to say no.

We want to avoid upsetting people, but don't be afraid to push back if a social plan isn't suitable, or take time to figure out if you want to say yes. Dr Meg says: "We tend to jump ahead and mind read, wrongly assuming we know how someone might react. You might worry the person will be disappointed but our reply doesn't often matter to them as much as we think."

**Forgive yourself:** Give yourself permission to rest or feel sad. Seeing it as an investment in your long-term wellbeing will shift your mindset from "lack"' ("I have failed to do x") to "gain" (building strength and energy).

**Combat stress:** Stress zaps energy yet we often miss the signs. Watch for sensations in your body like dizziness, palpitations and tense muscles. You might also feel on edge. Recognising how your stress looks will help you reduce or avoid stressful situations.

> **Improving a disabled or chronically ill person's quality of life means dealing with a range of physical, emotional and social factors**

**Dr Meg says:** "An effective breathing exercise to instantly reduce stress is exhaling for longer than you inhale. This triggers the parasympathetic nervous system and calms the stress response."

### DISABILITY EXPERT

Accessibility consultant Shani Dhanda talks about the lack of diagnosis: Shani says: "It's a privilege to have a medical diagnosis. For those who don't, navigating healthcare is even harder.

"Keep records of every email, letter or call. It could help you with raising a complaint. Finding a like-minded community can be helpful. Seek content creators who have built great communities relevant to you," Shani says,

### THE GP

Dr Chintal Patel says: "Long-term pain, illness or disability affects people in every way - work, life, family. It may also significantly impact finances and socialising, leading to isolation, frustration, depression, and anxiety.

"Long-term medications can lead to dependence or addiction. All of these decrease the overall quality of life."

But there are things that can help.

**Set simple goals:** Setting small daily targets is beneficial. Set a suitable pace and tick off achievements as you go.

**Movement:** Exercise has been shown to help with chronic pain and improve mood. Even if it's a small amount, do what you can as it might help.

Don't be put off by the concept - any movement is exercise. It can be stretching, chair exercise, a short stroll or movement in water.

**Get talking:** Talk to friends, family or a trained therapist. Vocalising your concerns might help you to manage the difficult emotions that come with pain or illness.

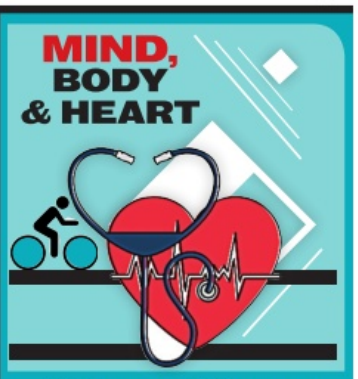
**Sleep hygiene:** Sleeping when you have pain is often difficult. Learn about sleep hygiene and implement steps to improve yours, including having a set bedtime and routine. Limit caffeine, alcohol and late-night snacks.

**Second opinions:** You are within your rights to request a second opinion if you feel you aren't being listened to. Sometimes a fresh pair of eyes can help.

**Managing flare-ups:** Dr Chintal says: "Never be afraid to ask your GP for help. Maybe we need to increase your medication, or provide other measures to get you through a flare.

"We can also help with tapering off medication as needed. If medications stop being effective, speak to your GP instead of suffering alone. We may need to tweak doses, change to a different medication, or refer you for support at a pain clinic. But please know you're not alone."

—Daily Mirror




## All problems solved

*Dear Coleen*

**I'm a woman in my late 30s and feel very hurt by the way a friend has behaved. We first met at a mother and baby group when our daughters were only a few months old and they're both eight now and go to the same school. Recently, I'd noticed this friend had backed off a bit and wasn't as available to meet. She'd make excuses about being busy, although was still cheerful and sweet.**

**But I heard from someone else that this friend had been kind of trash-talking me to a couple of the other mums, saying she wasn't keen on her daughter hanging at ours because I feed them rubbish and I also use bad language!**

**I feel so judged and badly hurt. I thought we were close, but I was clearly wrong.**

### COLEEN SAYS

Ouch. It seems to me as if your friend has changed while you've stayed the same. Maybe she's desperately trying to fit in with these other mums or maybe she deals with the stress of parenthood by being ultra-controlling about everything. And we all know that's one route to send your kids off the rails when they hit the teen years!

Who knows and, quite frankly, who cares? She's been mean about you and she's betrayed you, and I think you should call her out on it. She's basically suggesting you're a rubbish parent and that's the lowest blow from a fellow mum. If you don't want to be friends with her any more, that's perfectly understandable, but tell her why and explain how hurt you are. She didn't have the courage to face you and tell you what she thinks of your playdate food and swearing – she decided to gossip to other people instead.

Friends grow apart for many different reasons and sometimes they find each other again somewhere down the line.

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

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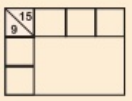
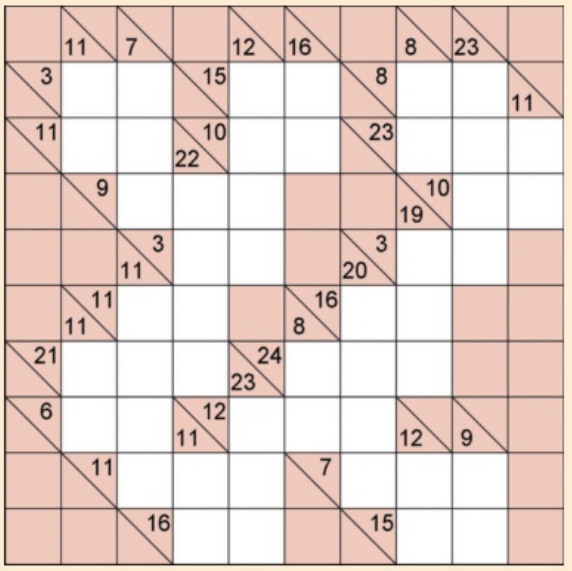
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror


## Kakuro

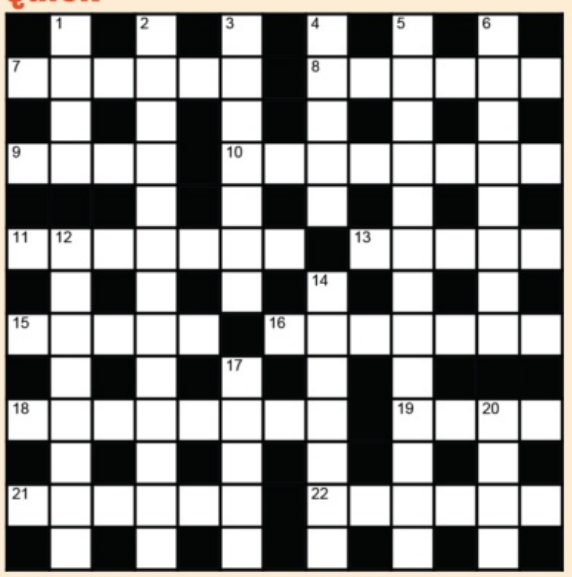
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.




Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



## Quick



**ACROSS**

7 Quit one's job (6)
8 Alliances or marriages (6)
9 Money (4)
10 Al fresco bar at the Oberoi (4,4)
11 Move forward (7)
13 Make alterations (5)
15 Drying device (5)
16 Comic strip (7)
18 Beauty is but ___ ___? (4,4)
19 Captures or arrests (4)
21 Sameness in pitch (6)
22 Beseeches (6)

**DOWN**

1 Antitoxins (4)
2 Obstinacy (13)
3 Examine carefully (7)
4 Small valley (5)
5 Conditions (13)
6 Insinuation (8)
12 Imbibing some liquid (8)
14 Scottish instrument (7)
17 Creature (5)
20 Offers at an auction (4)

## Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

**Today's CLUE: P EQUALS W**

NI JQD TQO'G PHOG GQ PQYZ JQD CHKU GQ PQYZ GQ UHYO UOQDSC AQOUJ VQ GCHG JQD PQO'G CHKU GQ PQYZ.

**Linemaro**

Could you please step away from the bar? You're melting all the ice

**Mindchow**

Those who wish to sing always find a song

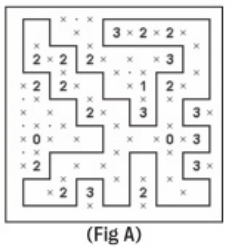
**Joke of the day**

Politically correct: He does not hog the blankets; he is thermally unappreciative

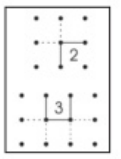
## Loop

**Rules**

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

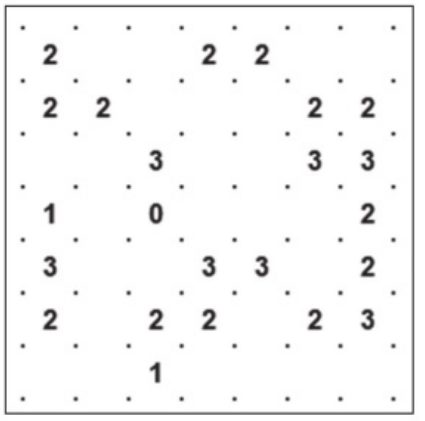


(Fig B) Not Allowed

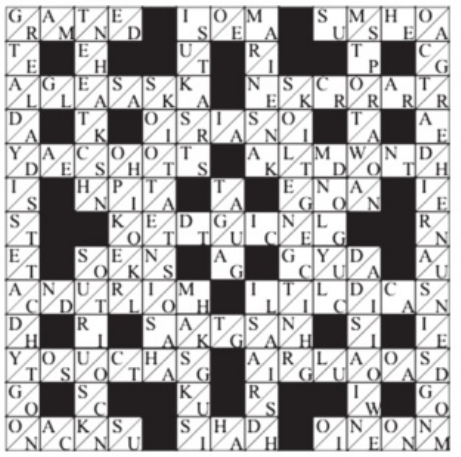
**How to begin:**

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



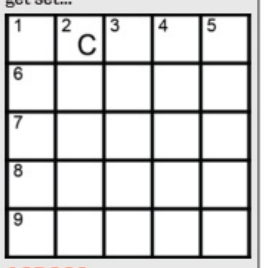
## Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

## Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...




**ACROSS**

1 Orcus; 6 I hour; 7 I pass; 8 Waker; 9 Small

**DOWN**

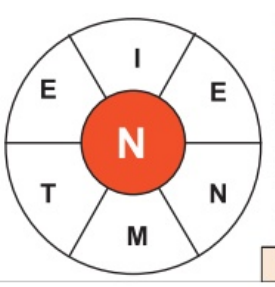
1 Whams; 2 A crop; 3 Seoul; 4 Ural I; 5 Sri SK

## Mensapuzzle

What number comes next in this sequence?

100, 97.25, 91.75, 83.5, ?

## Bull's eye




How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 07 Outstanding

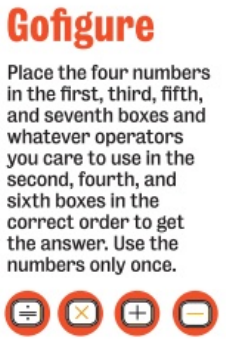
## SudokuChallenge

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 5 | | | 6 | 4 |
| 4 | | | | | 1 | | | 8 |
| | | | 6 | | 4 | | 5 | |
| 7 | | 6 | | 4 | | | 2 | |
| 9 | | | 1 | | 8 | | | 6 |
| | 4 | | | 2 | | 9 | | 5 |
| | 2 | | 9 | | 7 | | | |
| 8 | | | 3 | | | | | 7 |
| 5 | 3 | | | 1 | | | | |

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

## Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.




## Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

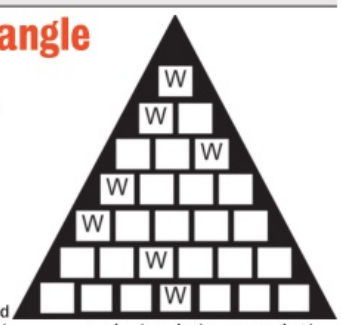
**Differences: 1.** Paintbrush is longer. **2.** Sleeve is shorter. **3.** Cuff is added to pant leg. **4.** Tool loop is missing :from overalls. **5.** Ear is smaller. **6.** Paint tray is larger.

## Riddler

Sweet stalk, if you know what I mean. Not his brother's keeper? Citizen of the silver screen? And the blind man's peeper. Who is he?

## Alpha triangle

1 Watt, abbr.
2 Wife of, abbr.
3 An angry dispute
4 Exhausted
5 Erroneous
6 Crew sport
7 Developing




Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.


DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

# COMICS

## Redeye by Mel Casson

## Bizarrotrip

BIZARRO.COM
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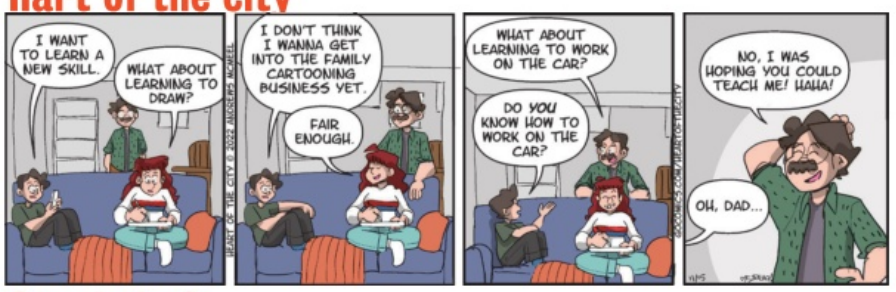
After encountering a few unremarkable characters, Pip returned home from his stroll and tidied up a bit.
DICKENS'S LOW EXPECTATIONS

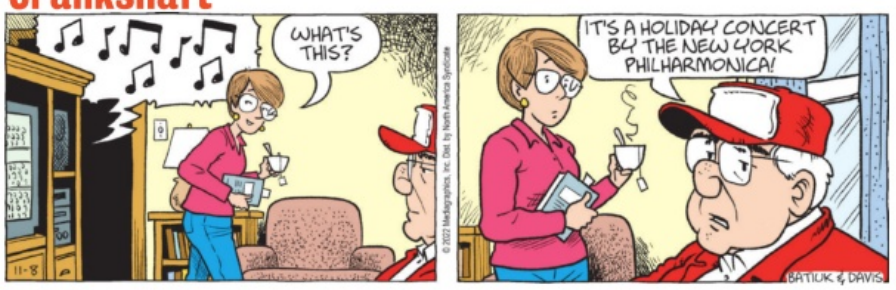
## Diamond Lil

HAVE YOU SEEN THAT NEW ACTION FIGURE?
IT'S CALLED "MEDIUM-RARE RALPHIE"
WHAT'S IT DO?
YOU PULL HIS STRING AND HE BLEEDS ON YOUR PLATE

## Hart of the city


I WANT TO LEARN A NEW SKILL.
WHAT ABOUT LEARNING TO DRAW?
I DON'T THINK I WANNA GET INTO THE FAMILY CARTOONING BUSINESS YET.
FAIR ENOUGH.
WHAT ABOUT LEARNING TO WORK ON THE CAR?
DO YOU KNOW HOW TO WORK ON THE CAR?
NO, I WAS HOPING YOU COULD TEACH ME! HAHA!
OH, DAD...

## Crankshaft




## Mutts

# WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

**Aries** Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you may implement some new plans into your family business. It will pay you in terms of gains in the near future. You may also be busy in family or social get-togethers. You may spend money to buy some creative or artefacts to renovate your house. This may increase your social status. Today you should be careful about teeth, ear, eye, nose, and skin issues.

**Taurus** Apr 21 – May 20
Today is a good day for you. You may have good vitality and health. You may enjoy your work. You must avoid straightness. It is advised to avoid arguments on worthless topics, otherwise there may be some disputes in the family. If you are able to control your tongue, you may expect healthy partnerships in business and harmony in the family. Job seekers may find suitable work.

**Gemini** May 21 – Jun 21
Today your vital power may slow down and old disease may reappear. This can make you upset. You are advised to avoid adventure tours or rash driving. You are advised to avoid any type of ligation. You may settle it out of the jury. You may also plan for an overseas tour.

**Cancer** Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may get profits from your past investments. Your losses may convert to profits. Implementation of new ideas may bring progress in your business. Today you may get success easily. you are likely to meet an influential person who will show you the right path to success. Lovebirds may take some decisions in terms of marriage. Couples will hear good news in terms of kids. Job seekers will get suitable work.

**Leo** Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today your family and spouse will support you. It will increase domestic harmony. Due to overload at work, you may not be able to give proper time to your family. You may reach a family get-together late. You are expected to see a strong position in your professional front. Projects related to government agencies are likely to initiate now.

**Virgo** Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you are blessed by elders, which may help you come out of a confused state. You may use your wisdom to save your hard-earned money. You may spend money on worthwhile things. Students may hear some good news in terms of academics. You are likely to develop healthy relations with your spouse. There may be some progress in terms of family harmony.

**Libra** Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, until late evening, you may not feel good. You may have anxiety and restlessness. It can make you arrogant and can affect your domestic life. Your speed may slow down and affect your professional life, but you may come out of this messy situation with the help of elders' blessings. In the late evening, things may be under control.

**Scorpio** Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today your performance at work may be praised by your boss. You are likely to get some promotions. Your opponents are under control now. Singles may fall in love at their workplace. Students will likely find good friends. Those in jobs related to artefacts, fashion, glamour, and interior may perform well.

**Sagittarius** Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you might meet some influential person who can help you in business in terms of expansions. Your internal power helps you to take difficult decisions in your professional life. You may start some new ventures with your friends or siblings. It is advised to read documents carefully before signing any contract.

**Capricorn** Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you are likely to be busy with your kids' education and career. You may hear some good news in terms of their academics. Lovebirds are advised to keep patience in terms of their relationship. Investors are advised to avoid invest in risky assets as they might convert into dead stock.

**Aquarius** Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you may plan to migrate from one place to another place. It is advised to think twice before taking decisions regarding migration. There will be peace in your mind. Your kids' health might make you upset. It is advised to avoid speculation in investments. Lovebirds must keep patience before taking an important decision in terms of marriage.

**Pisces** Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may have good patience. Meditation may help you to increase concentration, which will speed up your projects. Your colleagues may cooperate with you. It may help you to complete a project before time. There may be some short trips related to work. An influential person may help you boost your network.

## KIDZONE

A Ananya Gladys, 7 Years, Sophia High School

Kavi Varsha, 7 Years, Shantidhama

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

# SOLUTIONS

**SOLVE IN 1M**
(2·66÷3·66) ·(2·-66) ·(3·-66)
2·0÷3·0 = 1

**RIDDLER**
Cane

**QUOTE UNCODE**
If you don't want to work you have to work to earn enough money so that you won't have to work.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | A | L | L | S |
| W | R | E | A | K |
| A | P | S | I | S |
| H | O | U | R | I |
| S | C | O | U | R |

**FAST FIVE**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | A | T | E | | S | E | A | | U | S | H | A | | |
| E | H | | T | R | | P | | C | | | | | | |
| D | I | I | R | A | N | I | | T | | E | | | | |
| A | L | A | S | K | A | | E | S | C | O | R | T | | |
| | R | | G | | L | | R | | N | | | | | |
| R | E | S | I | G | N | | U | N | I | O | N | S | | |
| | S | | I | | O | | P | | E | | | | | |
| C | A | S | H | | | E | | U | | E | | | | |
| | | | | P | O | L | O | C | L | U | B | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

**STRIKE OUT**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| O | A | K | S | | S | A | D | | I | N | O | N | | |
| G | | C | | K | | R | | W | | O | | | | |
| Y | O | U | T | H | S | | I | G | L | O | O | S | | |
| D | | R | | S | A | G | A | N | | S | | I | | |
| A | N | T | R | I | M | | L | I | L | I | A | N | | |
| E | | S | E | N | | A | | C | U | D | | U | | |
| T | | K | E | D | G | I | N | G | | N | | | | |
| S | H | I | T | | A | | E | O | N | | I | | | |
| Y | A | C | H | T | S | | A | L | M | O | N | D | | |
| D | I | | I | R | A | N | I | | T | | E | | | |
| A | L | A | S | K | A | | E | S | C | O | R | T | | |
| E | H | | T | R | | P | | C | | | | | | |
| R | A | T | E | | S | E | A | | U | S | H | A | | |

**QUICK**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | | S | | G | | E | | S | | S | | | | |
| U | N | I | S | O | N | | P | L | E | A | D | S | | |
| I | | E | | I | | I | | C | | I | | | | |
| S | K | I | N | D | E | E | P | | N | A | B | S | | |
| | N | | D | | B | | G | | A | | | | | |
| A | I | R | E | R | | C | A | R | T | O | O | N | | |
| R | | D | | T | | B | | S | | D | | | | |
| A | D | V | A | N | C | E | | E | M | E | N | D | | |
| | E | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| C | A | S | H | | P | O | L | O | C | L | U | B | | |
| | R | | G | | L | | R | | N | | | | | |
| R | E | S | I | G | N | | U | N | I | O | N | S | | |
| S | P | | I | | G | | G | | I | | | | | |

**MENSA PUZZLE**
72.5: the amount deducted increases by 2.75 each time. Ie 2.75, 5.5, 8.25, 11.

**BULL'S EYE**
EMINENT, mien, mine, mint, nine, teen, tine

**SUDOKU**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 9 |
| 8 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 7 |
| 6 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 1 |
| 3 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 5 |
| 9 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 6 |
| 7 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 3 |
| 1 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 2 |
| 4 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 8 |
| 2 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 4 |

**ALPHA TRIANGLE**
W, WO, ROW, WORN, WRONG, ROWING, GROWING.

**LOOP**

**GO FIGURE**
Easy
7 + 9 - 1 + 1 = 16
5 x 4 - 2 / 3 = 6
Medium
4 + 6 x 7 - 2 = 68
Hard

**KAKURO**

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## Snap snap

### Advice for paps: Don't follow or shout

Recently actresses Rhea Chakraborty and Yami Gautam had a word or two for paparazzi. On Tuesday, Rhea was visiting a salon where she was greeted by the paparazzi. However, when she was about to get inside, she was followed by the paparazzi who wanted to click her pictures.

While rushing towards the salon, Rhea tripped on the stairs and almost fell. However, she quickly regained her balance. She turned to the paparazzi and blamed them. "You follow me so this happens," Rhea told the paparazzi, who then apologised to her for causing inconvenience.

Yami Gautam too was spotted visiting a salon where the paparazzi greeted her. However, the actress lost her cool when she heard someone shouting while the photographers rushed to click her pictures.

In the video that has surfaced online, Yami asked the photographers who was shouting. 'First tell me who was shouting',' Yami says, to which the paparazzi responded saying, 'It was somebody from outside.' Yami reluctantly obliged later.

—ETimes

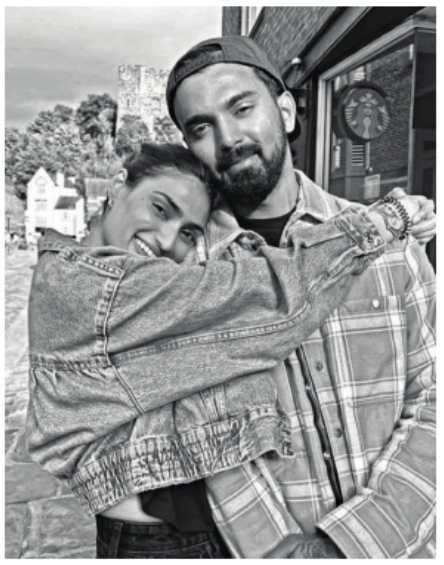
## Do you hear the wedding bells?

Athiya Shetty and KL Rahul are all set to tie the knot on January 23 and their wedding preparations have already started in full swing. The cricketer's house has been adorned with hanging lights and it seems like the two families are gearing up for a big fat wedding.

According to the reports, the wedding ceremonies of Athiya and Rahul will reportedly take place between January 21 and 23. The couple will exchange their wedding vows on January 23 at Suniel Shetty's farmhouse in Khandala, which is also currently being decorated.

Several reports have suggested that Athiya and Rahul will have a low-key wedding, which will take place in the presence of their respective families and close friends. No one from the film industry is expected to attend the wedding except for the couple's close friends.

KL Rahul, who did not get enough time to shop for the wedding, will now immerse himself into preparations and finalize his wedding outfits with Athiya. The couple are likely to get married in a traditional South Indian wedding. The sangeet ceremony is expected to take place on January 21. Athiya's close friend Akansha Ranjan will be organising the event.



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## SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

### Choreographer turns director

Choreographer Jeevaan Hallikar is all set to prove his mettle as a director. Hallikar began his career in 2002 and worked as a lead dance artist in several movies. He has also choreographed a song sung by Kichcha Sudeep. "I choreographed an ad in which cricketers Virat Kohli and Rishab Pant acted. The shoot was held at The Ritz-Carlton hotel on Residency Road in 2019," recalled Jeevan.

He runs a dance studio named 'Glitterers' and has trained 6,000+ students. He has been associated with 'Vibbhinna', a designer boutique, that has made costumes for cheerleaders for Namma Royal Challengers Bangalore, Mumbai Indians, Kolkata Knight Riders & Hyderabad Sunrisers.

Now, he is busy with handling the megaphone for Kannada movie Black Sheep for which he wrote the script apart from doing the choreography. "I have a passion towards directing movies. I am very happy to realise it. Around 90 percent of the shooting of this movie is completed. It was shot in Bengaluru, Mangaluru and Mumbai. The remaining 10 percent of the shooting will be completed shortly," he said.

Newcomers such as Vishal Kiran, Prashaanth V Hari, Nisha Hegde, Shivangi Davey along with supporting characters like Krishna Hebbale, Sridhar KS, Sunder Veena, Dashavatara Abhilash and Bhajarangi Prasanna are the star cast.

### Small screen to big

Bhoomika Ramesh, who earned name for her performance in Kannada tele serial Bhagya Lakshmi, makes her debut in Sandalwood with December 24 that is scheduled for the release next month.

"I play a doctor in December 24. I had an ambition to become a doctor, but now I got a chance to play a medico in this movie. It made me feel like a doctor and gave me immense satisfaction," said Bhoomika.

Bhoomika is a Bharatanatyam dancer and has participated in Kannada and Telugu reality shows. "I have no training in acting but managed it with the guidance of the directors in tele serial and the movie," she said.

She said that she has a few offers for acting in movies. "I am not in a hurry to accept whatever is offered. Some directors and producers have contacted me but I have not yet taken a call on it. I want to act in movies that convey a message to society," she said.

December 24 is directed by Nagaraj MG Gowda, who debuts as a director in Sandalwood. According to the director, the film is based on a real incident in Hulidurga where infants died due to breathing problems.

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